

importance of the present recommendation has been hitherto recognized and called to the attention of the American countries by the First Pan American Congress; so that the recommendation in question is in reality a reaffirmation of the resolution of the First Pan American Scientific Congress, recommending as most desirable the establishment of official meteorological and seismological services in countries which have not yet established such agencies for the advancement of knowledge of our planet and for direct aid to agriculture, transportation, and sanitation. It is to be hoped that a recommendation urged by two scientific congresses of the Americas will be carried into effect, as it would not have been proposed in the first instance, had its advisability not been apparent, and it would not have been reaffirmed by the present congress unless it were considered, upon reflection, highly desirable. For this reason the congress, in making the recommendation, expressed the hope that the services would be established where they do not exist as soon as may be practicable.

#### SYMONS MEMORIAL MEDAL FOR 1912.

The Symons Memorial Gold Medal, which is awarded biennially by the Royal Meteorological Society of England, was presented to Prof. Cleveland Abbe at the annual general meeting on January 17, 1912. As this event in the history of the Weather Bureau has never been recorded by the MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW, we reprint the official report of the proceedings as published in the Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society (London), 1912, 38: 156-7.

#### PRESENTATION OF THE SYMONS MEMORIAL GOLD MEDAL.

The President [Dr. H. N. Dickson] said that it now fell to him to perform one of the most pleasant duties connected with his office, the presentation of the Symons Gold Medal. He would ask Prof. Cleveland Abbe to accept this Medal, but the Secretary would first read the Extract from the Minutes of the Council concerning this award.

The Secretary read the following extract from the minutes of the Council Meeting of November 15, 1911:

"Prof. Cleveland Abbe was born on December 3, 1838, at New York. He began active scientific work as a mathematical lecturer, but early in the sixties he joined the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. He was resident at Pulkowa, 1864-1866, which was then under the Directorship of the younger Struve. Abbe returned to the United States and became assistant at the U. S. Naval Observatory. In 1868 he was appointed Director of the observatory at Cincinnati, into which he infused new life. He joined the Weather Service of the United States in 1871, and

it is in connection with that organization that his great life-work has been performed."

"Apart from a large amount of official work, evidence of which may be found in the publications of the Weather Bureau, he is notable mainly for (1) his collection of papers on the *Mechanics of the Earth's Atmosphere*, which are today indispensable in work on the dynamics of meteorology. Volume I was issued in 1891 and Volume II in 1908;<sup>1</sup> (2) his *Treatise on Meteorological Apparatus and Methods* issued in 1888. This is a historical and practical account to which even the meteorologist of the twentieth century may turn for instruction; (3) his *Preparatory Studies for Deductive Methods in Storm and Weather Predictions*, issued in 1890; (4) his articles on Meteorology in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, which are no doubt well known to all Fellows of the Society.

"Professor Abbe was one of the first to realize the importance of experimental investigations of atmospheric radiation, and it was largely due to his enterprise that the well-known researches of Hutchins and Pearson were undertaken. The importance of this work has been recently emphasized by its application to the explanation of the isothermal condition of the upper atmosphere. Professor Abbe has contributed, therefore, to instrumental, statistical, dynamical, and thermodynamical meteorology, and forecasting. He has, moreover, played throughout the part not only of an active contributor, but also of a leader who drew others into the battle and pointed out the paths along which attacks might be successful.

"He is a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, a member of the National Academy [of Sciences of the United States], and an Honorary Fellow of our own Society."

The President then said:

"Professor Abbe, we have listened to the statement of the Secretary setting forth the reasons which have led the Council to award you the Symons Gold Medal on this occasion. I do not think it is necessary or desirable to add to what has been already stated by any further expansion of the points which have been set forth. Every member of the Society is sensible of his indebtedness to the work which you have done in the past in connection with our science. I may perhaps be permitted to add on behalf of those members of the Society who have had the privilege of becoming personally acquainted with you, our sense of the very great debt we owe to you for personal encouragement. I remember the occasion some five and twenty years ago, on which I came, a very raw and budding meteorologist to Washington, and had the privilege of enjoying the hospitality which you so generously offered to those working in the subject; and I remember the strong stimulus which I received from you at that time. There are very many other meteorologists who must be conscious of owing to you a similar debt. It gives me very great pleasure, Sir, to offer you, on behalf of the Society, this Gold Medal."

Professor Cleveland Abbe said that it gave him the greatest pleasure to have his name associated with that of their dear friend and colleague, George James Symons. He could not express his emotion, but could only thank them most sincerely for the honour they had conferred on him in awarding him the Medal. This event will always be to him a stimulus to future labours. They are all brothers in science, and he was greatly touched to hear from the account read by the Secretary, that they had so closely watched his career and labours in a science of which they had not yet reached the end.

<sup>1</sup> See in this connection the personal reminiscences by Professor Abbe, on page 206 of this issue of the REVIEW.

<sup>2</sup> This was his "Collection of translations. Third Collection"; the manuscript was ready for the printer in September, 1908; he finished the proofsheets in April, 1910, and the volume was issued by the Smithsonian Institution in June, 1910.—C. A., Jr.